

Telluride Film Festival

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2008 TELLURIDE FILM FESTIVAL DRAWS TO A CLOSE

Telluride, CO (September 1, 2008) – Today marks the close of the 35th Telluride Film Festival, presented by National Film Preserve and DELL. The sold-out Festival featured a diverse selection of programming from across the globe with over seventy filmmakers, writers, actors and artists in attendance. This celebration of art and film set amongst the beauty of the Rockies opened Friday, August 29 and closed today, September 1, 2008.

The Festival kicked off in style Friday night with a tribute to **David Fincher**. Rumors proved true when, following a dynamic Q&A between Fincher and Variety’s Chief Film Critic **Todd McCarthy**, the packed house got a first look at twenty minutes of Fincher’s highly anticipated new film, **THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON**.

In keeping with Festival tradition, Co-Directors Tom Luddy, Gary Meyer and Julie Huntsinger treated Festival guests to three sneak previews: **FLASH OF GENIUS**, directed by **Marc Abraham** and starring **Greg Kinnear** and **Lauren Graham**, all of whom were in attendance to introduce the film. The film tells the true story of a David (Kinnear) who took on the Goliath of the Detroit auto industry; **SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**, **Danny Boyle**’s latest work, also in-person to show his film, about a young man seeking wealth on an Indian TV version of “Who Wants to be a Millionaire,” who reveals his brutal, sometimes comic life story through a series of questions asked by the hilariously slippery on-air TV host; and **MAGIC MIRROR**, a trip inside the creative process of one of the world’s great directors, 35th TFF Tributee **Jan Troell**.

Laura Linney made an unannounced appearance at the Festival to present screen legend **Jean Simmons** the Silver Medallion award on Saturday night at the Opera House. **Salman Rushdie** also made a special appearance to introduce Indian actress **Nandita Das**’s directorial debut, **FIRAAQ**.

Senegalese musician and composer Youssou Ndour and his band played surprise concerts following screenings of **I BRING WHAT I LOVE**.

Other Festival attendees included: **Alloy Orchestra, Nicole Beharie, Cathal Black, Nae Caranfil, Philippe Claudel, Ron Colby, Lance Daly, Tim Disney, Tony Donoghue, Francois Dupeyron, Sergei Dvortsevov, Nicholas Eliopoulos, Ari Folman, Matteo Garrone, Jeff Goldblum, Bent Hammer, Bill Haney, Kim Ji-Woon, Yoram Kaniuk, Joe Lawlor, Jane Lee, Mike Leigh, Thomas Lynch, Ole Christian Madsen, Steve McQueen, Christine Molloy, Youssou Ndour, Maud Nelissen, Tim Blake Nelson, Will Patton, Kimberly Reed, Richard Schickel, Paul Schrader, Jan Sikel, Götz Spielmann, Peggy Stern, Elizabeth Chai Vasarhelyi, Paul Vester, Paul Watson, Félicité Wouassi, Slavoj Zizek, and Elsa Zylberstein**

Commenting jointly, Co-Directors Tom Luddy, Gary Meyer and Julie Huntsinger said, “The response to this year’s programming met our highest expectations. Our goal was to showcase discoveries from around the world that our audiences can tell others about. Many films had their first showings at Telluride and both critical and distribution attention should help bring them to audiences throughout the country.”

To view the entire 2008 Telluride Film Festival lineup, visit: www.telluridefilmfestival.org.

Film stills available for download online at: <http://clients.browndesign.com/tff/35>

Festival images available at: www.wireimage.com

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About Telluride Film Festival

The prestigious Telluride Film Festival, presented by DELL, ranks among the world's best film festivals and is an annual gathering for film industry insiders and a major launching ground for the fall season's most talked-about films. Co-founded in 1974 by Tom Luddy, James Card and Bill and Stella Pence, Telluride Film Festival, nestled in the beautiful mountain town of Telluride, Colorado, is a four-day, international educational event celebrating the art of film. The Festival’s long-standing commitment is to join filmmakers and film connoisseurs together to experience great cinema. The exciting schedule, kept secret until Opening Day, consists of film debuts, special Guest Director programs, three major Tributes to guest artists and remarkable treasures from the past. Festival headquarters are in Berkeley, California. For more information visit www.telluridefilmfestival.org

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